

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three (3) sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4. These sheets, which include only Figures 1-4, are to replace the original first three sheets of figures. The final sheet, containing Figure 5, is not repaced.

Figure 1 was changed to omit the reference characters other than "10." This change was made because, upon review, the usage of the reference characters (other than 10) in Figure 1 did not appear to be as consistent with the specification or the other figures as is desirable.

Figure 2 was amended to include a text label on items 26 and 32.

Figure 3 was amended to include a text label on item 46.

Figure 4 was amended to include text labels on items 48, 50, 56, 58, 70, and 72. Item 26 remains unlabeled because of its small size (and because the corresponding item is labeled with text in the amended Figure 2).

Figure 4 also adds reference character "18" near the top center of the figure. This addition corrects the problem noted by the Examiner that reference character 18, mentioned in the specification of the patent, was not present in the drawings.

The changes summarized above, together with the removal of reference character 24 from the specification (as described below), are believed to be sufficient to place the drawings in condition for allowance.

REMARKS

The Examiner's time and attention in examining the present case are much appreciated. The case has been indicated to be in condition for allowance, except for formal issues noted by the Examiner in the specification and drawings. This Amendment addresses those formal issues.

The specification has been amended in the paragraph that begins at page 9, line 12, to correct a few editorial problems and to correct certain of the problems noted by the Examiner. Specifically:

1. The reference character "24" has been deleted from the amended paragraph and, it is believed, no longer occurs in the specification. Thus reference character "24" is no longer missing in the drawings as noted by the Examiner.
2. Various inconsistent uses of the reference character "22" have been deleted in the amended paragraph. Others uses of the reference character in the specification are believed to be consistent with the undeleted instance(s) in the amended paragraph. Thus, it is believed that no inconsistent use of "22" remains in the application.
3. Two instances of excess use of the reference character "14" have been deleted.
4. A few small editorial improvements have been made.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Application No. 09/646,859
Amendment Dated June 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2004

Applicant believes that a four-month extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely, and a request for such extension is submitted herewith. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory V. Bean
Attorney for Assignee
Registration Number: 36,448
Corning Incorporated
SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831
Phone: 607-974-2698

DATE: 28 June 05